IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

- 1. (Currently amended) A method of treating hair comprising:
- i) applying a hair treatment composition emprising consisting essentially of 0.5 to 25 % by weight of at least one oil agent and a solvent, and having a water content of 0 to 15 % by weight or lower to dry hair;
 - ii) allowing the hair to stand for 3 to 120 minutes: and
 - iii) washing the hair treatment composition away wherein said dry hair has a water content of not more than 30% by weight.
- 2. (Original) The method of treating hair according to claim 1, wherein the hair to which said hair treatment composition has been applied is covered so that a component of said hair treatment composition may not escape while being allowed to stand.
 - 3. (Currently amended) A method of treating hair comprising:
 - i) applying a hair treatment composition comprising consisting essentially of 0.5 to 25 % by weight of at least one oil agent and a solvent, and having a water content of 0 to 15 % by weight or lower to dry hair;
- ii) warming the hair at a prescribed temperature for a prescribed period of time with the hair being covered; and
 - iii) washing the hair treatment composition away, wherein said dry hair has a water content of not more than 30% by weight.

2

Application No. 09/832,897 Reply to Office Action of December 8, 2003

4. (Original) The method of treating hair according to claim 3, wherein said warming the hair is carried out at 35°C or higher for 3 minutes or longer.

5. (Original) The method of treating hair according to claim 3 or 4, wherein said warming the hair is carried out with a hair warming cap having heating parts.

Claims 6-10 (canceled)

- 11. (Previously presented) The method of treating hair according to claim 1, wherein said hair treatment composition comprises 3 to 99 wt.% of said solvent.
- 12. (Previously presented) The method of treating hair according to claim 1, wherein said hair treatment composition comprises 5 to 50 wt.% of said solvent.
- 13. (Previously presented) The method of treating hair according to claim 1, wherein a total proportion of said oil agent and said solvent in said composition is from 5.5 to 100 % by weight.
- 14. (Previously presented) The method of treating hair according to claim 1, wherein a total proportion of said oil agent and said solvent in said composition is from 10 to 70 % by weight.
- 15. (Previously presented) The method of treating hair according to claim 1, wherein said oil agent is selected from the group consisting of ester oils, triglyceride oils, higher alcohols, hydrocarbon oils, silicone oils, vegetable oils, animal oils and a mixture thereof.

Application No. 09/832,897 Reply to Office Action of December 8, 2003

- 16. (Previously presented) The method of treating hair according to claim 15, wherein said oil agent is an ester oil selected from the group consisting of isopropyl palmitate, isopropyl myristate, octyl palmitate, cetyl palmitate, propylene glycol dicaprate, neopentyl glycol dicaprate, neopentyl glycol dicaprate, isononyl isononanoate and a mixture thereof.
- 17. (Previously presented) The method of treating hair according to claim 15, wherein said oil agent is a triglyceride oil selected from the group consisting of glycerol tri(2-ethylhexanoate), glycerol tricaprate and a mixture thereof.
- 18. (Previously presented) The method of treating hair according to claim 15, wherein said oil agent is a higher alcohol selected from the group consisting of cetanol, myristyl alcohol, stearyl alcohol, behenyl alcohol, 2-octyldodecanol and a mixture thereof.
- 19. (Previously presented) The method of treating hair according to claim 1, wherein said oil agent is selected from the group consisting of liquid paraffin and octamethylsiloxane.
- 20. (Previously presented) The method of treating hair according to claim 1, wherein said solvent is a liquid at ambient temperature and carries a hydroxyl group.
- 21. (Previously presented) The method of treating hair according to claim 1, wherein said solvent is selected from the group consisting of lower alcohols having 1 to 6 carbon atoms, polyhydric alcohols, alkylene carbonates and N-methylpyrrolidone.

Application No. 09/832,897 Reply to Office Action of December 8, 2003

- 22. (Previously presented) The method of treating hair according to claim 1, wherein said solvent is selected from the group consisting of behenyl alcohol, benzyloxyethanol, glycerol, propylene glycol, dipropylene glycol, propylene carbonate, N-methylpyrrolidone and a mixture thereof.
- 23. (Previously presented) The method of treating hair of claim 1, wherein said dry hair has a water content of 20 % by weight or less.
- 24. (new) The method of claim 1, wherein said oil agent comprises isopropyl palmitate.
- 25. (new) The method of claim 3, wherein said oil agent comprises isopropyl palmitate.
- 26. (new) The method of claim 1, wherein said solvent is at least one solvent selected from the group consisting of benzyloxyethanol and dipropylene glycol.
- 27. (new) The method of claim 3, wherein said solvent is at least one solvent selected from the group consisting of benzyloxyethanol and dipropylene glycol.